

MR. W. G. OAKMAN RESIGNS

The First Vice-Presidency of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company.

A VERY SERIOUS LOSS TO THE SYSTEM.

Sketch of His Career—Prominent in a Business and Social Way—His New Position with a New Jersey Road.

The Richmond and Danville Railroad has become such a factor in the welfare of Richmond, and indeed of the whole South, that whatever concerns its management is of very general interest.

From the time that the control of the Danville railroad and its subordinate lines passed out of the hands of the syndicate of Richmond men, who controlled its destinies, it has been owned in New York, and for the most part managed there.

Conspicuous among those who have guided its physical and financial destinies for eight years past is Mr. W. G. Oakman, whose resignation as first vice-president takes effect today.

Knowing that this gentleman has won the universal confidence of the Southern people, with whom both in business and socially he has been thrown, THE TIMES gives a sketch of his career as a railroad man, not only as a well deserved tribute to a friend of the South, but also to the recognition and appreciation of his merit; may encourage others to emulate Mr. Oakman, whose resignation as first vice-president, it is well known by all acquainted with the man and the property, entails a severe loss upon the whole Richmond and Danville railroad system.

Though scarcely forty years of age, Mr. Oakman has had an unusually valuable training in railroad service, and is one of the few practical railroad managers of this country whose professional information, embraces experience in the financial as well as the operating and mechanical departments.

Mr. Oakman was born in Philadelphia, Pa., where the early years of his life were spent.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania he went to Paterson, N. J., where his father owned a large silk factory and was then residing.

Together with Mr. R. S. Hayes, now president of the St. Paul and Northern Pacific Company, and Mr. J. B. McQuinn, now vice-president and manager of Mr. Gould's Southwestern system, Mr. Oakman entered almost immediately after graduating from college the works of the Rogers Locomotive and Machine Company at Paterson.

He served a regular apprenticeship in all the departments of these extensive works, becoming an expert in both the theoretical and practical knowledge of locomotive building.

At the expiration of his service with the Rogers Company, Mr. Oakman accepted a position of confidence at the head of the departments of John S. Kennedy & Co., New York bankers.

While he was with this firm they undertook the promotion and construction of the St. Paul, Minnesota and Manitoba railroad, now the Great Northern, and also the International and Great Northern railroad of Texas.

In 1877 Mr. Oakman accepted the superintendency of the Utica division of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad, which position he occupied until 1882, bringing that portion of the company's property from a condition of unprofitableness to one of profit and importance.

Upon the resignation of this position he returned to New York and was employed at No. 14 Wall street as a railroad expert, which he maintained until the fall of 1883, when he accepted the third vice-presidency of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, receiving charge of the financial and accounting departments, and the New York financial office of the company.

Mr. Oakman has remained in the service of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company since that time, with the exception of a brief period in 1887, when he resigned, becoming a member of the banking house of Smith, Oakman & Ryan.

On his return to the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company in 1887 he was made second vice-president, having supervision of the operating, financial and accounting departments.

In 1888 he was made first vice-president, having general charge of all departments of the company.

When Mr. Oakman first entered the service of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company it had a large floating debt and its financial needs for the improvement of its physical condition, new equipment, etc., were large and urgent.

With faith in the South and in the future of this great railroad, which faith has never since flagged nor varied, Mr. Oakman worked for the improvement and development of this property with all the zeal and enthusiasm of his warm nature, ably aided with skill and experience in the efforts of the managers to build it up and extend it.

Being a practical railroad man, Mr. Oakman has been able to and has always shown a proper appreciation of the work of his subordinate officers and employees, making and doing with applause, and errors with consideration and kindness.

These qualities have endeared him alike to the officers and employees of the Richmond and Danville system, and no one will regret the severance of his official relations, more than they do, while his skill, modesty and unassuming manners have always secured for him the respect and confidence of the directors of the company.

In 1878 Mr. Oakman married Miss Elizabeth Conkling, the only child of the late Roscoe Conkling of New York.

Mrs. Oakman is a niece of the late Horatio Seymour, of New York, and is a cousin of Mr. Fairchild, late Secretary of the United States Treasury.

Mr. Oakman leaves the management of the Richmond and Danville railroad to accept a position of equal responsibility with the Central railroad of New Jersey, which terminates at New York, his home, thereby avoiding a separation from his family and frequent and prolonged absence from home necessary in the management of so extensive a property as that controlled by the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company.

VISITING HOMES.

Tour of Inspection of the Masonic Committee.

The committee appointed by the board of governors of the Masonic Home Association to adopt plans and specifications for the erection of a large brick building as a Masonic orphan's home on the farm presented by Captain Babcock, made a tour of inspection yesterday among the various charitable institutions.

The object of their trip was to familiarize themselves with the inner workings of such institutions and to gain an idea of the kind of building which would be best suited to their purposes.

The committee visited the home of the Humane Association, Seventh and Leigh streets; St. Joseph's Home, Fourth and Marshall; the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and Male Orphan Asylum.

The members of the committee, who made the tour were Captain Babcock, Colonel William E. Tanner, John S. Ellett, D. C. Richardson, L. Nachman and Captain E. F. Roever.

To Preach at the Synagogue.

Rev. Edward M. Calish, a noted rabbi of Peoria, Ill., will arrive in the city today, and his afternoon sermon will be at the Beth Abrahah synagogue, on Eleventh street.

The synagogue has been without a minister since the death of Rabbi Harris, and the congregation has since heard several pastors preach on trial, but as yet no one has been chosen.

It is thought that Mr. Calish will please the congregation from what has been heard of him.

Henrico Statistics.

For the month ending yesterday 185 deeds of bargain, sale, trust, release, etc., were recorded in the Henrico County Court. For the same period marriage licenses were issued to four white and six colored couples.

The Music Festival.

The sale of season tickets for the Music Festival yesterday morning was unexpectedly large. Full 200 seats were taken. Subscription lists remain open at the music store for one week longer.

THE EARTH'S CRUST.

Vast Storehouse From Which Man Supplies His Wants.

A very large audience, composed of professors and their families, students and friends of Richmond College, greeted Professor Clarke, of Boston, in the college chapel last evening.

It was the first in the annual series of Thomas memorial lectures, and these lectures always draw large crowds.

Professor Clarke has already been introduced to the readers of THE TIMES. He was presented to the audience last evening in a neat speech by Professor Winston.

This course of lectures, Professor Winston said, is for the benefit of the community, and a world's monument to the well-known practical wisdom and sagacity of the noble man whose name it bears.

This is the fourth series of these lectures. The first was on the oldest of the sciences, astronomy, the second on the youngest, biology, and the third showed how to appreciate some of the world's masterpieces of art, and now the study is the earth, the vast storehouse of which man draws the materials with which to supply his wants.

As a trustworthy guide in this study Professor Winston said he was glad to introduce Professor Clarke, a learned chemist and competent scientific investigator.

Professor Clarke, in introducing his subject, "The Chemistry of the Earth's Crust," reminded his audience that nature, like man, does her grandest work without making much noise or display.

The crust of the earth is quite thin in comparison with the entire sphere, and yet it is the storehouse of the materials that we can know anything about with certainty.

The thickness of this shell, which we are acquainted is about ten miles, extending from the summits of the highest mountains to the deepest bed of the ocean.

Of the mass contained in this ten miles of crust, 93 per cent. is rock and 3 per cent. is coal.

We are familiar with some of the elements constituting this mass, such as iron, copper, sulfur, and to some extent we are familiar with gold.

The Atlantic ocean contains gold enough to pay our national debt, but in order to get it out would have to spend a much larger amount than the debt.

We can penetrate to only inconsiderable depths when compared to the whole mass of the globe.

The deepest artesian well in the world is at Leipzig, Germany, and is 2,700 feet deep. At Wheeling, W. Va., is an artesian well 4,100 feet deep, and the people of Wheeling are anxious to make it deeper, so as to have the deepest well in the world.

Some of the elements that seem quite common, such as copper and lead, are really very rare in comparison with many others.

Professor Clarke showed a specimen of aluminum, a metal that is very abundant in ores, but so difficult to obtain in a pure state that it is not extensively used.

If it could become cheap it will no doubt displace many of the common metals for various purposes. It is only one-third as heavy as iron, and does not rust.

The lecturer reviewed briefly the modern theories in regard to the origin of the earth's crust.

The nebular hypothesis, or the theory that the planets, including the earth, were formed by the cooling and condensation of gaseous matter, is generally accepted.

Explorations have been showing the readiness with which the elements composing the earth's crust combine with one another.

The interior of the earth is believed by some to be solid and by others to be in a liquid state, as shown by molten matter rising up by volcanoes.

Lord Macaulay said that truth is neither white nor black, but gray; so the truth in reference to this matter is probably between the two extremes; in other words, the interior of the earth is probably partly molten and partly solid.

The next lecture, on Tuesday evening next, will deal with mineral veins and igneous waters.

Professor Clarke is a pleasing and instructive lecturer, and presented a fine paper.

Mayor Elyson and a number of other prominent men from the city were in the audience.

Professor L. R. Hamberlin will give one of his delightful readings in Lynchburg this evening.

Messrs. Harry S. Corey, S. J. Young and J. C. Harwood will represent Richmond College in the May Festival Chorus, which is pronounced by competent critics the best chorus of the kind ever organized in this city. The first chorus is made up of second tenors and the last is second bass.

The Lombardy Literary Circle will meet this afternoon at 5:30 o'clock at the residence of Professor Winston. The subject for discussion will be the life and writings of Washington Irving.

National Association Delegates.

The Convention of the National Machinists' Association meets in Pittsburgh, Pa., next Monday.

President of the convention, Mr. J. J. Creamer, and the secretary, Mr. W. L. Lawley, live in Richmond, and will leave here today on the noon train, accompanied by Mr. John Ruth, the delegate from Richmond, and Mr. George Sturdevant, the Manchester delegate.

It is said that this will be one of the most important conventions of its kind which has been held for years, and a very interesting feature will be the discussion of the strike at the Richmond Locomotive and Machine Works.

The Democracy's Interests.

Baker's Precinct Club held a large and enthusiastic meeting last evening at Sear's Hall. Much campaign business was transacted.

The canvassers reported a gain that will give the Democratic ticket a majority in the precinct, the first time for years.

The meeting was addressed by Messrs R. R. Fannin, William H. Sanders, Simon Solomon, Henry Hecker, William H. Brauer, L. H. Kemp, C. W. Chidsey and others.

Shoemaker's precinct will have a big meeting this evening and good music. Messrs. H. M. Smith, C. R. Sands, R. R. Fannin and others will make addresses.

Dancing Soiree.

Professor H. F. Laube will close the present season of his dancing academy with a dress soiree at Belvidere Hall to-morrow from 6 to 8 P. M. A fine band will discourse melodious music. The occasion will be enlivened by fancy dances, including the minuet, Gypsy and fairy dances, and there will doubtless be a large attendance, as the Professor is famous for making his visitors have a good time.

Smoke Marcos Morales & Co.'s fine cigars. For sale by F. Bianchini.

Secure a home at Highland Springs, one of the healthiest, pleasantest places in the suburbs of Richmond. Take Seven Pines railway. Five-trip tickets, 25 cents. Some of the new houses are for sale on easy terms, and the railroad company gives a yearly pass with each house when occupied.

Smoke Marcos Morales & Co.'s fine cigars. For sale by H. Heuser.

Use Perfection Baking Powder. Always guaranteed to give satisfaction. Made by the Southern Manufacturing Company, Richmond, Va.

Smoke El Grandor cigar. For sale by O. K. News Company.

Six Per Cent.

The United Banking and Building Company are issuing time certificates of deposit, bearing 6 per cent., with interest coupons attached, payable quarterly. The company invites the attention of the public to this feature, as it is one that has never before been introduced in this city, and is especially attractive to those who are only receiving 4 per cent. on their deposits. For further information apply at the office of the company, 821 east Main street.

Smoke El Grandor cigar. For sale by Gonella Brothers.

The Southern Manufacturing Company are putting in every residence in Richmond an order for a can of their Perfection Baking Powder. Do not fail to send the order to your grocer and get a free can of the best baking powder made.

Smoke El Grandor cigar. For sale by C. H. Dorset, Pine street.

Don't Fail to Take.

In time for coughs, colds, croup, consumption, bronchitis, hoarseness, and all throat and lung troubles, that old-fashioned remedy, Dr. David's Cough Syrup, of pure pine tar, horehound and wild cherry.

NOTICE.—THE FIRM OF THOMAS BRANCH & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, any of the partners will sign in liquidation.

JOHN P. BRANCH and his sons, BLYTHE W. BRANCH and JOHN KERR BRANCH, will continue the Banking and Brokerage business under the old name.

THOMAS BRANCH & CO.

CLOTHING.

The Fabric

Known as Cheviot has of late years become very popular with men of good taste in dress. There are a variety of reasons for this, chief among which is the fact that from its loosely woven texture it is the coolest possible material for street or business wear. While it is apparently rough in surface it is soft and silken to the touch, and possesses heft enough to retain its shape. From its increasing popularity the great designers have lent their best efforts to produce patterns in Cheviots that vie with the most elegant French Casimeres. We have this season secured the choicest results of the designer's art in Cheviots, and fashioned them into garments—ready for immediate use—that will compare favorably with the very finest custom-made clothes it is possible to produce. A swell tailor will charge you \$40, \$50 or \$60 for an imported Cheviot Suit. The fit and shape will in no case be superior to that of one of ours at \$15, \$18, \$20 or \$25. The material of our \$18 to \$25 Suits is quite as good, being imported goods. The trimmings of ours cannot be excelled. Our vast facilities alone enable us to do these things, and what is of quite as much importance, we show such a variety of styles and patterns that no matter what your fancy calls for, if it's made it is sure to be here. We've got it awaiting your pleasure. It is a rare thing indeed when an intending purchaser leaves our house without being suited. It would be suicidal for us to make these statements if we were not prepared to substantiate them. We know it, you know it; do not hesitate then, but be wise in your generation and come right here for your Spring Suit. Save time, save worry, save temper and save money by fitting yourself out in one of our Imported Scotch Cheviot Suits at half the price you've been paying for having your clothes made to order.

For this Special Day only you can select any Trimmed or Pattern Hat from the millinery show room and one-fourth its marked price will be taken off if bought to-day. Thus, if you see a Hat marked \$10 it will only cost you \$7.50 to-day. If you see a Hat marked \$5 it will only cost you \$3.75 to-day. If you see a Hat marked \$2.50 it will only cost you \$1.87½ to-day.

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